

Abstract of the Disclosure

A signaling message processing and routing node intercepts and routes signaling system 7 (SS7)-based signaling messages received from the

5 base station controller (BSC) component of a base station system (BSS) via an A-interface link interface. The A-interface normally connects a BSC node to a mobile switching center (MSC) node. Upon determining that a signaling message received from a BSC node via an A-interface link is an SMS-related message, the SMS message is routed towards the appropriate destination

10 without involving the MSC node connected to the BSC. The SMS message may be encapsulated within an Internet protocol (IP)-based transport adapter layer interface (TALI) protocol packet and transmitted into an IP network. As a result, MSC resources are conserved.